ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A multi-layer filter element for filtering fluids, in which a plurality of layers of filter media follow each other in succession in the direction of flow through the filter. All of the individual filter layers are preferably made of synthetic fibers, especially polyester fibers. The successive filter layers exhibit an increasing degree of filter fineness in the direction of flow through the filter, and the filter material contains at least one filter layer arranged on the inflow side of the filter which is composed of a meltblown fiber nonwoven web, especially a polyester fiber web.